

Sept 1833

The Story of the Princess Helens.

Arthur

Loel, the nephew of ~~the king~~ ^{Arthur} fought with great
courage against the giants' evil deeds of
Armorica. But ~~Arthur~~ ^{that king}, to reward him, made
him ~~king~~ ^{Duke} of the Armorican Dukes. & ~~then~~
TP Benton was exposed to fear that it was long before
they dared to come out of the cavernous secret
places where they had kept his hiding under
the heels of the giants. How did they know but
that their new duke & his nobles might play
at pelting them with the ~~large~~ boulders, each as
big as a house, with which that comitry abounded?

But Loel, the nephew of Arthur, loved
mercy & justice: and had he ~~not~~ sworn up
his uncle's sword, Caliburn, that he would help
the weak & pity the poor? So, one by one, the peasants
gained courage to creep out of their unwholesome
dens, & showed themselves, trembling, in the
daylight, ready to flee into the ~~any~~ bowels of
the earth should their ~~new~~ ^{old} duke but frown.

It was pitiful ~~to see~~ ^{to see} the poor wretches, with blind
eyes, cramped limbs, & bodies covered with
sores, get through their unwholesome living.
Loel ~~did~~ ^{Duke} show this precious lady, & friendly nobles
went amongst them again, then led corn
to sow, & the cattle of the giants to give them
milk; gave them physic, too, for their pains
& spoke words which they heard with kind thought
they never heard in an unkind tongue.

And now the desolate land began to smile
again; fresh honey upon the trees; the
corn sang in the fields, & the

The birds which had all fled from the land under
the horrible sway of the giants, came back again,
covered the meadows with blue & gold, & filled the
air with song.

The hearts of the people were glad & grateful when
they saw their little children at play among
the flowers; & they wondered what they could do
for their good duke Noel ~~for~~ all his kindness
to them. Then ~~the nobles & peasants~~
~~one man~~ ^{heard}, let us build our duke a palace,
more beautiful than any king's house in
the world, excepting only the palace of King
Arthur in the City of Seligons.

When the people heard this, they raised a great
shout for the joy they had in a good deed
for their kind lord. So the nobles & peasants
scattered themselves all over the land to
collect whatever there was of the beautiful
in the castles of the slaughtered giants.
They ~~searched~~ ^{might} about now without any fear, for
there was not one giant left in the land, though
the wolves still came prowling down from
the mountains, the nobles & peasants went
~~against~~ ^{attacked} them, armed with spears & clubs,
showing they such as they did not kill were
driven back to their dens in the cold
mountains.

Very grim, large & dismal looked ^{yet} the castles of
the giants. Many a time the hearts of the peasants
fainted within them for fear when they had climbed
some high mountain set on at the foot of
the great dark castle at the top, steep as high as

am mountains, with walls reaching up to heaven.
How did they know but the giant was in there after all,
would rush out upon them with a roar like the
boom of the sea in a storm? They knew very
well what would happen. He would take them
into his ~~braving~~ fists, dash their heads against
mountain sides, cleave their brains clean out - & dash
castle walls, cleave them half alive, or pick
their carcasses into the valley below for the
wolves to scent. ^{At first when they drew near the castle}
They would keep themselves close amongst the
rocks & the brushwood, holding their breath for
fear. & many a time they wished themselves safe
in the valley again with their wives & their chil-
dren, even though ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~good~~ ^{lost}? Had should he
without a roof to cover his head. That care
we may said for great lords & dukes! Let
them build houses for themselves. We poor peasants
have enough to do to look after our own?

That was what they said in their fear, but as they
lay still & listened and ~~heard~~ ^{came} ~~from their ears~~
better thoughts ^{arose} ~~came~~. They would ~~pop~~ ^{jump} up & creep
in at any rate; & then, if the giant did wake up,
they would still be time to hide themselves.

And then they would stand up to the great gate, behind
it hanging loose on rusty hinges. There, when
the crowd, ~~was a dark lake of people below~~
gleaming with iron, ~~the hideous skeleton of~~
the giant - bones enough to make a mountain
range.

Then the people would remember that death courage
is better than death half alive, & nobles for deliverance
have known so great a terror. Rightly.

Rightly, then they got over their terror ^{at the} sight of the
front sight they would ransack the secret
chambers of the castle for all the treasures the
dead giant had hidden. They found cups of
gold & dishes of silver, slabs of marble, por-
phyry & green & purple, rubies & diamonds they
found too, carved work in wood & stone,
embroidery in gold and silk. ~~There were~~
There were treasures which the giants had ~~found~~
brought out of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~world~~ ^{world}. But when they found
them brought them home, each giant with
a hundred cart-loads on his great back - broader
six elephants - what did they do with their
treasures? Did they make their castles beautiful
with precious things?
Not they; they cared nothing for beauty; their
desire was to destroy & bury, & to take away precious
things from the people who did care for them.
So every giant had, far down beneath his
castle, huge vaults, black as midnight, big
enough to hold a town. And here it was the
giant stored all the treasures he collected every
time he went down into the world, like a wild beast,
to kill & devour his prey.

So the peasants went down into these treasure-houses
& laboured for a thousand days in bringing
up into the daylight the hidden treasures of
the giants, & in bearing them away upon their
mules to the lovely flat plain where they
meant to build a palace for their good Duke.

II
Duke Noel's Palace

From all this time Duke Noel was away at the wars with King Arthur, & when no more of the great work his people had taken in hand. When they got to the fair plain of Bretigni, each with his mule's burden of precious things, they found Sir Lathan waiting to receive what they brought.

Lathan was a great-captain under the duke; & withal, he was a wise man, who no sooner looked at a thing than he knew a use for it & that the very best use it could be put to. As the people came pouring in with their loads of marble & gold, carved ~~with~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~work~~ ^{work} & embroidery, Lathan said not a word, but ~~pointed~~ ^{pointed} to each man where to put the things he had brought.

The people kept silence too, for nothing looked at the wise grey-haired, they said 'Sir Lathan has a plan in his head!' ~~and~~ ^{so} they ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~coftly~~ ^{coftly} as if a man's footfall might drive away that vision of the palace which they saw coming into Lathan's eyes.

The last man had brought in the last load, & all the time Lathan never spoke. And now he saw it spread before him in the plain, a vast & solitary palace, as big as a town, with a high wall & towers & battlements about it. He knew the size & the place of every stone in the walls, the pattern ⁱⁿ every hanging, the precious stones set in each of the porticoes.

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Then it was in his Satans brain, but it had
yet to be built: this great palace which should
be the glory of Gaul. But the Captains could
build as well as plan. Set a thousand men
before him, & he knew in a twinkling what
each man could do, what he could do
best. And as the people had brought in their
loads, saying nothing, Satan had said to
himself, this man shall do this, & that man
the other; & he had brought him of the right
tools for every peasant & noble in the land.

He had planned tasks of spinning, weaving
& embroidering for the noble ladies & the peasant
women too, for the palace should be furnished
with whatever was beautiful & precious.

One part of his plan was not easy to bring about;
he had set his heart upon a surprise for Noel;
that he should come unawares upon the closely
palace, everywhere complete, & find out that it
was waiting to receive him & his - the people
opening of his loving people.

All this Satan saw his way to manage without
any gathering of workmen or noise of tools. He put
a number upon every slab of marble, log of
timber, block of stone, every piece of sewing
& embroidery; & marked upon each the exact
size & shape it must be of to fit into the
place which its number showed it was to
fill.

Then he called the people together & gave every
man his task to take home, giving him a year
and

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and a day took perfectly the work he had taken in hand.

The next day Duke Noel returned from the wars. Therefore ever he embraced his lady, he rode through his dominions with his lady by his side to see if any wrong remained to be righted, if any poor man were in need of help from his strong hand.

As the two rode across the plain of Prestigron, there was no sign of folk that had come before -

"Here were a good place, I tell you. For a royal palace," said the duke; "a great lord might gather his people here as a mother gathers her children for the evening meal."

And I tell you laughed under his beard, but he said not more words that he nodded his grey head ~~three times~~ said nothing.

The next year, Arthur again called his trusty nephew to the wars. Noel went in search of his friend.

"I tell you," he said, "we cannot both go follow the king; you must stay here with your army and your people. There are giants on the borders waiting to break in upon us whenever they find opportunity. Be content, stay here now, & next time, you shall follow the king ^{to the wars} & I shall stay at home."

"Let it be," said I tell you.

That was much for him to say, & Noel was satisfied: he did not know ~~that~~ the old man chuckled ^{whimsically} behind his beard.

No sooner was the duke thus following well on his way than Noel sent a spring of hotly ^{fresh} news

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fair chambers, too, for the little children, though
as yet ~~there was~~ Duke Noel had none.

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Duke Noel comes home.

While the people stood admiring, a messenger
brought word that the Duke had crossed the seas.
He sent greetings to his lady & his people, &
promised to be amongst them within twenty
days. — Councils were held to settle how Noel was
to be brought to his palace; but — though many
spoke, it was Estans who acted: he always had
the right plan, perhaps because he did not
waste himself in many words.

This was how it was told: Estans, unrepentant,
should ride forth to meet his lord; others two
should go through the land, weather all
ways, coming upon Perpignan in this way.
Meanwhile, the ^{lady} ~~household~~ & her maidens & all
her household should be brought in state
to the great new palace, to be there in waiting
for the Duke.

And first all fell out: when, all of a sudden,
the shining towers of Perpignan broke upon
him, Noel, ~~that~~ ^{that} man of gallantry as he was,
nearly fell from his horse with amazement. Then
his people thronged upon him, lifted him
from his saddle & bore him on their shoulders,
clanged & cried & sobbed & shouted, &
were beside themselves with joy, as they
bore him into the great hall, & set
to the dais, to the ^{high} ~~great~~ chair of state, beside
which sat his lady.

Then Noel got up, & raised his eyes & turned about
about him; but — it was not at the foot of the carvings.

the roof, was at the tapestry hanging on the walls &
looked. No, ~~not~~ before him, & away into the
dim far space of the hall, were faces, the faces
of his people, such as daisies in a field, & every
face as an open book, writ with love & kindness.
Kael cleared his throat & tried to speak, but the
words would not come; he tried again, & once more
& at last - ^{he said}
"My people, God bless you!" ^{but he feared him;}
^{when he cleared his head}
that was all: ~~the sacrifice~~ ^{fell back in his}
^{on his arms, for he could not -}
~~death~~ ^{he kept back the}
^{who that} ^{shook him}
^{in great} ^{shook}
And the people shouted till the walls shook again.
When, at last, every man went home, it was
with a prayer in his heart for ~~the good Duke Kael~~.

All the next week, Kael took no time to
admire the glories of his new palace: for he
saw every soul of his people to household, were in
a bustle of preparations for such a feast as
had never been seen spread in American
halls.

~~Ten~~ ^{ten} thousand oxen were driven in, each whole
roasted whole at a thousand mighty bonfires
built ^{around} the walls: ^{hundred} ~~ten~~ thousand sheep
followed; red deer like rabbits for numbers,
& of the birds of the air & the fish of the rivers,
an innumerable multitude. Upon the
meat & the sides, had all the barrels burst: the
great palace & its walls said that it contained
would have been lost in a lake of sweet
waters.

At length all was ready; the fumes & the prayers
were arranged, the mighty cooking began. &
Duke Kael knew open his house every soul in
his